ORP5/8 AND MIB/MICOS LINK ER-MITOCHONDRIA AND

INTRAMITOCHONDRIAL CONTACTS FOR NON-VESICULAR TRANSPORT OF

PHOSPHATIDYLSERINE

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SUMMARY

Mitochondria are dynamic organelles essential for cell survival whose structural and

functional integrity rely on selective and regulated transport of lipids from/to the

endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and across the mitochondrial intermembrane space. As they

are not connected by vesicular transport, the exchange of lipids between ER and

mitochondria occurs at sites of close organelle apposition called membrane contact sites.

However, the mechanisms and proteins involved in these processes are only beginning

to emerge. Here, we show that the main physiological localization of the lipid transfer

proteins ORP5 and ORP8 is at mitochondria-associated ER membranes (MAMs)

subdomains, physically linked to the MIB/MICOS complexes that bridge the two

mitochondrial membranes. We also show that ORP5/8 mediate non-vesicular transport of

phosphatidylserine (PS) lipids from the ER to mitochondria by cooperating with the

MIB/MICOS complexes. Overall our study reveals a novel physical and functional link

between ER-mitochondria contacts involved in lipid transfer and intra-mitochondrial

membranes contacts maintained by the MIB/MICOS complexes.

KEYWORDS

Membrane contact sites, MAM, ER, mitochondria, ORP, phosphatidylserine.

INTRODUCTION

Vesicular trafficking is the major pathway for transport of proteins and lipids between membranes. However, an alternative route, which is vesicle-independent, occurs at regions of close inter-organelle membrane proximity (within less than 30 nm) also called membrane contact sites (Scorrano, De Matteis et al., 2019). This route is particularly important to preserve membrane composition, integrity and identity of intracellular organelles such as mitochondria that are largely excluded from the classical vesicle-mediated trafficking pathway. Like other organelles, mitochondria can be closely associated with the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), the major site of lipid synthesis and the major intracellular calcium (Ca^{2+}) store. ER membrane subdomains closely apposed to mitochondria are called mitochondria-associated ER membranes (MAMs) and they facilitate the exchange of Ca^{2+} and lipids between the two organelles (Herrera-Cruz & Simmen, 2017, Tatsuta, Scharwey et al., 2014, Vance, 2014).

Mitochondria are involved in a plethora of cellular processes including energy production, lipid metabolism, Ca^{2+} homeostasis and apoptosis. To fulfill their numerous functions, mitochondria need to maintain a defined membrane composition by receiving essential lipids and lipid precursors from the ER through membrane contact sites (Giordano, 2018, Vance & Tasseva, 2013).

Increasing lines of evidence suggest that lipid transfer proteins (LTPs) play a major role in regulating the lipid composition of membranous organelles by facilitating non-vesicular lipid transport at membrane contact sites. In recent years, several tethering complexes with lipid transfer activity have been identified at membrane contact sites between the ER and other intracellular organelles as well as the plasma membrane (PM) in yeast and mammalian cells. However, our knowledge of how lipids are exchanged at ER-mitochondria membrane contact sites remains rudimentary, and the LTPs that localize

and function at these sites are just starting to be discovered. The best-studied lipid

transfer/tethering complex at ER-mitochondria contact sites is the yeast ER-mitochondria

encounter structure (ERMES) (Kornmann et al 2009, Lang et al 2015) that bridges the

ER and the mitochondrial membranes and also facilitates the exchange of

phospholipids (in particular phosphatidylcholine, PC) between them. In metazoans,

very little is known on how lipids are exchanged at ER-mitochondria membrane contact

sites and about the proteins involved in this process. Some tethers at mammalian ER-

mitochondria contact sites have emerged in the recent years (Gatta and Levine 2017).

However, none of these proteins has been directly involved in non-vesicular lipid

transport between ER and mitochondrial membranes. Recently, mammalian LTPs with

tethering function, such as VPS13A or Pdzd8 (the latter being proposed as a paralog

of the ERMES subunit Mmm1(Wideman, Balacco et al., 2018)), were shown to localize

at membrane contact sites, including those between ER and mitochondria, where they

regulate membrane tethering and, in the case of Pdzd8, mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake

(Hirabayashi, Kwon et al., 2017, Kumar, Leonzino et al., 2018). However, their function

in lipid transport at these ER-mitochondria contacts has not been proven.

The Oxysterol binding protein (OSBP)-related proteins constitute a large family of

LTPs conserved from yeast (Osh) to humans (ORP) and localized to different

subcellular sites, shown in several cases to be membrane contact sites. A common

feature of all ORPs is the presence of an OSBP-related lipid-binding/transfer (ORD)

domain. Most ORP proteins contain a two phenylalanines (FF) in an acidic tract

(FFAT)-motif that binds ER-localized VAP proteins and a pleckstrin homology (PH)

domain that interacts with lipids or proteins in distinct non-ER organelle membranes.

Two members of this family, ORP5 and ORP8, do not contain an FFAT motif but are

directly anchored to the ER through a C-terminal transmembrane (TM) segment.

ORP5 and ORP8 have been previously shown to localize at ER-PM contact sites

where they transfer phosphatidylserine (PS) from the cortical ER to the PM, in counter-

exchange with the phosphoinositides Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI4P) and

Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP_2) (Chung et al. 2015; Ghai et al, 2017). We

have recently shown that ORP5 and ORP8 are also present in the MAM and play a

key role in maintaining mitochondrial integrity (Galmes, Houcine et al., 2016). We and

others, have also shown that ORP5/8 form a protein complex in the cell (Chung, Torta

et al., 2015, Galmes et al., 2016). However, ORP5 and ORP8, when overexpressed,

display a different distribution within MCS. In particular, overexpression of ORP5

greatly expands ER-PM contacts (Chung et al., 2015, Galmes et al., 2016), resulting

in an accumulation of ORP5 at these sites, while overexpressed ORP8 is largely

retained in the reticular ER. As all the studies on ORP5 and ORP8 so far have

employed their individual overexpression, the endogenous sites where ORP5 and

ORP8 interact and function as a complex are still unknown.

Interestingly, transport of PS is a key event occurring at ER-mitochondria contact

sites. Newly synthesized PS, by the ER-localized PS-Synthase 1 (PSS1), is shuttled from

the ER to the outer mitochondrial membrane (OMM) and from OMM to inner mitochondrial

membrane (IMM) where it is rapidly converted to phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) by the

PS-decarboxylase enzyme PISD (Vance, 1990, Vance & Tasseva, 2013). At the IMM, PE

plays crucial roles in maintaining mitochondrial tubular morphology and therefore

mitochondrial respiratory functions (Joshi, Thompson et al., 2012, Steenbergen,

Nanowski et al., 2005). Regardless of extensive studies on PS transport between ER and

mitochondria since its first discovery more than 20 years ago (Vance, 1990), the

underlying mechanisms and proteins involved are still elusive.

Membrane contact sites exist also between the OMM and the IMM and are mediated

by the Mitochondrial Intermembrane space Bridging (MIB) and Mitochondrial Contact

sites and Cristae junction Organizing System (MICOS) complexes. The MICOS complex

is a multi-subunit complex preferentially located at Cristae Junctions (CJ), tubular

structures that connect the IMM to the cristae, and it is necessary for CJ formation, cristae

morphology and mitochondria function (Harner, Korner et al., 2011, Huynen,

Muhlmeister et al., 2016, Ott, Dorsch et al., 2015, Wollweber, von der Malsburg et al.,

2017). The integral IMM protein Mitofilin is the central component of the MICOS

complex and carries a large domain exposed to the mitochondria intermembrane

space (IMS) that interacts with the OMM Sorting and Assembly Machinery (SAM) to

form the MIB complex (Friedman, Mourier et al., 2015, Guarani, McNeill et al., 2015).

The SAM complex is constituted of SAM50 (a pore-forming β-barrel protein), Metaxin1

and 2, and is involved in the membrane insertion and assembly of mitochondrial β-

barrel proteins (Hohr, Lindau et al., 2018, Kozjak, Wiedemann et al., 2003, Kozjak-

Pavlovic, Ross et al., 2007). However, whether and how OMM-IMM contact sites are

linked to ER-mitochondria contacts in mammalian cells is still largely unknown.

Here we uncover for the first time the endogenous localization of ORP5 and ORP8,

revealing that the major site of their interaction in physiological conditions are the

MAMs. We also show that the ER subdomains where ORP5 and ORP8 reside are

physically connected to the intra-mitochondrial membrane contacts bridged by the

MIB/MICOS complexes at cristae junctions. We then show that ORP5/8 cooperate with

SAM50 and Mitofilin, key components of the MIB/MICOS complex, to mediate PS

transport from the ER to the mitochondrial membranes at ER-mitochondria contact

sites in mammalian cells, and consequently the synthesis of mitochondrial PE.

Our findings reveal a novel tripartite association between the ER and the two

mitochondrial membranes that links lipid transfer across these membranes, cristae

biogenesis and consequently mitochondria function.

RESULTS

ER-mitochondria contact sites are the main physiological localization of the

ORP5-ORP8 complex

The localization of ORP5 and ORP8 at membrane contact sites at endogenous

level is still unknown. We thus investigated the localization of endogenous ORP5 and

ORP8 by immunofluorescence using antibodies against ORP5 and ORP8 proteins. First,

we validated the specificity of these antibodies in cells overexpressing ORP5 or ORP8

proteins fused with a similar fluorescent tag (EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP8) and found that

ORP5 and ORP8 signals detected using these antibodies co-localized with the

overexpressed proteins (Fig. S1a-b). Then, we analyzed ORP5 and ORP8 endogenous

localization in control HeLa cells and in cells where ORP5 and ORP8 were downregulated

by RNAi and whose mitochondria were labeled by MitoTracker. We found a strong

decrease in ORP5 and ORP8 labeling upon their knockdown, whose efficiency (of about

95-100%) was confirmed by WB (Fig. 1b), confirming the specificity of the used antibodies

(Fig. 1a-c, S1a-b). Interestingly, in control conditions the majority of endogenous ORP5

and ORP8 co-localized to subcellular compartments in close proximity to mitochondria

(Fig. 1a, 1d, 1e-f, S1c). ORP5 and ORP8-positive compartments overlapped with the ER

protein RFP-Sec22b, confirming endogenous ORP5 and ORP8 localization to the ER and

further validating the specificity of these antibodies (Fig. S1c).

We then sought to analyze ORP5 and ORP8 localization when co-overexpressed (at

similar levels) by co-transfecting HA-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP8 in HeLa cells and comparing

their localization with the individually expressed ORP5 and ORP8 (EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-

ORP8) by confocal microscopy. When expressed alone, EGFP- ORP5 localizes to ER in

contact with mitochondria, but also strongly increases ER-PM contact sites where it

redistributes, while it localizes very little in the reticular ER (Fig. 1g, S1d and (Galmes et

al., 2016)). Instead, EGFP-ORP8, when expressed alone, localizes mostly to ER-

mitochondria contact sites and to reticular ER, with only a minor pool at cortical ER, as it

does not increase ER-PM contact sites (Fig. 1g, S1d). Remarkably, even if the individually

overexpressed ORP5 and ORP8 were differently distributed among MCS, their

localization at ER-mitochondria contacts was higher as compared to a general ER protein,

such as Sec22b (Fig. 1h). Moreover, and interestingly, when expressed together, ORP5

and ORP8 equally redistributed and co-localized to cortical ER, reticular ER and ER-

mitochondria contacts (Fig. 1g, S1d). In particular, their localization to ER-mitochondria

contacts was higher as compared to when expressed individually (Fig. 1h). Also, the co-

localization of co-overexpressed ORP5 and ORP8 was comparable to the co-localization

of the endogenous proteins, as revealed by the high Pearson's correlation coefficient that

was in both cases close to 1 (Fig. 1f). These data indicate that co-expression of ORP5

and ORP8 mimics the physiological localization of these proteins as a complex, when the

expression levels of one of the two proteins are not highly enriched as compared to the

other.

To further analyze and quantify ORP5 and ORP8 co-localization and interaction at

ER-mitochondria contact sites in co-overexpression and endogenous conditions we used

Duolink-Proximity Ligation Assay (PLA) coupled with staining of mitochondria

(MitoTracker) and confocal microscopy. PLA signals corresponding to ORP5-ORP8

interaction were observed throughout the cell in both endogenous and co-overexpression

(HA-ORP5 and 3XFLAG-ORP8) conditions (Fig. 2a). The specificity of this assay and of

the antibodies used was confirmed by the strong decrease in PLA signals for endogenous

ORP5-ORP8 interaction in cells with ORP5 and ORP8 knocked down (Fig. 2b, S2a).

Likewise, a significant increase in ORP5-8 PLA signals was induced by the

overexpression of these proteins (Fig. 2b)

Close association of PLA spots to mitochondria, indicating localization at ER-

mitochondria contact sites, was measured after segmentation of the mitochondrial

network by Imaris (Fig. 2a, right panel; S2b). Interestingly, the majority of ORP5-8 PLA

signals localized at ER-mitochondria contact sites (52% of endogenous ORP5-8 and 50%

of co-overexpressed ORP5-8) (Fig. 2a, 2c). The localization of ORP5-8 PLA signals to

ER-PM contact sites was analyzed in HeLa cells transfected with RFP-PH-PLCδ, to stain

the PM, and Mito-BFP, to label mitochondria. However, only a minor pool of ORP5-8 PLA

spots was found in contact with the PM (4% of endogenous ORP5-8 and 5% of co-

overexpressed ORP5-8) (Fig. 2d-f). The localization of ORP5-ORP8 PLA spots to the ER,

including MAMs, was confirmed in cells co-expressing the ER protein Sec22b and the

mitochondrial-targeted Mito-BFP (Fig. S2c).

Overall these data reveal for the first time that the main sites where ORP5 and ORP8

localize and interact in physiological and endogenous conditions are the ER-mitochondria

contact sites, and not the ER-PM contacts.

ORP5/8 physically interact with the mitochondrial intermembrane space

bridging (MIB) complex facing cristae junctions

To investigate whether ORP5/8 localize to specific ER-mitochondria contact

subdomains we performed a morphological analysis of ORP5 localization by immuno-

EM (IEM) on ultrathin cryosections from HeLa cells transfected with HA-ORP5 or

EGFP-ORP5 (as endogenous ORP5/8 levels are too low to be detected by IEM). We

previously reported that about 20% of ORP5 or ORP8 gold particles were associated

to ER-mitochondria contact sites when individually expressed (Galmes et al., 2016).

The advantage of analyzing ORP5 localization is its preferential localization to contact

sites, when expressed alone, as compared to ORP8 (Galmes et al., 2016), which

remains also largely present within the reticular ER. Interestingly, the majority of ORP5

gold particles was found to localize to ER elements in a very close proximity (86%

within 0-100 nm distances, 50% of which within 50 nm) to the CJ (arrow, Fig. 3a-b),

tubular structures that connect the IMM to the cristae. To exclude that ORP5

localization near CJ is not a consequence of its distribution throughout the ER

membranes, we sought to determine if other ER proteins have a similar frequency of

proximity to CJ. Thus, we compared ORP5 localization to Sec61β, a subunit of the

Sec61 complex involved in protein translocation in the ER, which is present in ER

elements distributed throughout the cells and very little at ER-mitochondria contact

sites (Galmes et al., 2016). Co-immunolabeling of EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-Sec61β and

protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) to stain the ER, confirmed ORP5 localization in ER

elements close to CJ (arrow, Fig. 3c) but not of Sec61β, the bulk of which localized on

ER membranes distant from the CJ (0% within 0-100nm and 69% >200nm distance)

even when close to mitochondria (Fig. 3b and arrowheads in Fig. 3c). Hence, our

results support the conclusion that ORP5 specifically localizes to ER-mitochondria

contact sites closely associated to CJ. Interestingly, in yeast, CJ were shown to be

closely associated to OMM-IMM contact sites tethered by the MICOS complex (Harner

et al., 2011). IEM analysis using Mitofilin-EGFP, an EGFP-tagged construct of the

human orthologue of the central component of the MICOS complex, confirmed that

human Mitofilin, similarly to its yeast orthologue, preferentially localizes to the IMM in

close proximity of CJ and in the cristae that arise from them (arrow, Fig. 3a). These

results suggest that ER-mitochondria contact sites where ORP5/8 localize could be

physically connected to the intra-mitochondrial membrane contact sites near CJ.

To identify binding partners of ORP5/8 at ER-mitochondria contact sites we carried

out a MS-analysis on GFP-pull downs from cells expressing EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-

ORP5ΔPH (an ORP5 variant lacking the PM-targeting PH domain that is localized at

ER-mitochondria but not at ER-PM contact sites)(Fig. S3b), or EGFP alone as a control

(Fig. 4a). As expected, the highest hit detected in both EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-

ORP5ΔPH pull-downs was ORP8. In accord to our previous study (Galmes et al.,

2016), the mitochondrial protein PTPIP51 was also detected in the mass spectrometry

analysis. Interestingly, several new outer mitochondrial membrane proteins (listed in

Fig. 4a) were also found as major hits. Among these proteins the Sorting Assembly

Machinery Subunit 50 (SAM50), a central component of the SAM protein complex

involved in the import and assembly of mitochondria β-barrel proteins in the OMM

(Hohr et al., 2018), had one of the highest scores (Fig. 4a).

SAM50 is part of the Mitochondrial intermembrane space bridging (MIB) complex,

composed of metaxin-1, metaxin-2 and the MICOS complex that anchors the OMM to

the IMM at CJ (Huynen et al., 2016, Ott et al., 2015). SAM50 is also known to directly

bind the central component of the MICOS complex Mitofilin (Ott et al., 2015).

Consistently, Mitofilin was also detected in the MS of EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-

ORP5ΔPH pull-downs (Fig. 4a). Interestingly, SAM50 and Mitofilin showed a higher

interaction score in EGFP-ORP5ΔPH immunoprecipitates, as compared to EGFP-

ORP5. To verify that the overexpression of ORP5 or ORP5ΔPH did not affect the

protein levels of SAM50 and Mitofilin, WB analysis using anti-actin as loading control

was carried out on cells expressing EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or EGFP alone.

Our results show that neither EGFP-ORP5 nor EGFP-ORP5ΔPH overexpression

alters the amount of SAM50 and Mitofilin proteins as compared to the overexpression

of EGFP alone (Fig. 4b). Of note, metaxin-2, and RHOT2, other components of the

MIB/MICOS complex, localized to the outer mitochondrial membrane, were also

detected in the MS of immunoprecipitated EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP5ΔPH,

although the score of metaxin-2 in the EGFP-ORP5 was lower than the assigned

threshold (50) (Fig. 4a).

To confirm ORP5/8 interaction with SAM50 and Mitofilin, GFP-pull down

experiments from HeLa cells expressing EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP alone

were carried out (Fig. 4c). Consistent with the MS data, endogenous SAM50 and

Mitofilin were recovered with both EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP8 but not with EGFP

alone, confirming specific interaction of ORP5 and ORP8 with SAM50 and Mitofilin.

Next, to determine the domains involved in the interaction of ORP5/8 with the

MIB/MICOS complex, GFP-pull down experiments were carried out from cells

expressing EGFP-tagged ORP5 (EGFP-ORP5ΔPH) or ORP8 (EGFP-ORP8ΔPH) PH

domain deleted constructs (Fig. S3b), and compared to the full-length proteins (EGFP-

ORP5 and EGFP-ORP8) or to the EGFP alone. In accord with the MS data, the

deletion of the PH domain increased ORP5 and ORP8 interaction with SAM50, as

compared to the full-length proteins (Fig. 4d). Confocal analysis of ORP5 and SAM50

localization on cells expressing EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH and stained with an

anti-SAM50 antibody confirmed the stronger enrichment of the ΔPH ORP5 construct

at ER elements in contact with the SAM50-labeled mitochondria as compared to the

full-length ORP5 (Fig. S3a).

As the PH domain is not required for the interaction with SAM50, we further

investigated the role of the other domains of ORP5 in such interaction by

immunoprecipitating ORP5 deletion mutants for the ORD or the TM domains (EGFP-

ORP5ΔORD, EGFP-ORP5ΔTM) (Fig. S3b, Fig. 4d). While the deletion of the ORD

domain did not affect the interaction between ORP5 and SAM50, the deletion of the

TM domain decreased the amount of SAM50 co-immunoprecipitated with ORP5,

indicating that ORP5 should be properly anchored to the ER to localize at ER-

mitochondria contact sites and to interact with SAM50 (Fig. 4d).

To confirm the interaction between ORP5/8 and SAM50 at endogenous level, as

an anti-ORP5 antibody from a different specie than SAM50 was not available, we took

advantage of the available antibodies against ORP8 and SAM50 from different species

and analyzed their interaction using PLA (duolink) by confocal imaging in control HeLa

cells and in cells where SAM50 was downregulated by RNAi (siSAM50). PLA signals

corresponding to ORP8-SAM50 endogenous interaction were detected at ER-

mitochondria contact sites in control cells (Fig. 4e). Also, a decrease of about 40% of

ORP8-SAM50 PLA was found in siSAM50 cells, in accord with the decrease of the

levels of SAM50 protein of about 40-50% assessed by WB, and validating the

specificity of ORP8-SAM50 interaction (Fig. 4e-g).

To investigate a possible role of SAM50 and Mitofilin in regulating the levels of

ORP5/8 at MAMs we analyzed their endogenous interaction by PLA and confocal

microscopy in HeLa cells where either SAM50 or Mitofilin were knocked-down by

siRNA oligos. Interestingly, a significant decrease (of about 40%) in ORP5/8 interaction

was found in both SAM50- and Mitofilin-knockdown cells, as compared to control cells

(Fig. 5a-b), indicating a synergistic effect of SAM50/mitofilin on ORP5-ORP8

interaction.

To verify the possibility of an indirect effect of SAM50 or Mitofilin silencing on the

morphology and abundance of MAMs we carried out an ultrastructural analysis by

conventional EM and HRP-KDEL EM (carrying a horseradish peroxidase (HRP) tagged

with an ER retention motif to stain the ER) in Mitofilin or SAM50 silenced cells. Morphological analysis by conventional EM showed that transient (48 hours) knockdowns of SAM50 or Mitofilin induce formation of multilamellar cristae, almost devoid of CJ (Fig. S4a-b), complementing previous observations by other groups through stable disruption of the MICOS/MIB functions (Ding, Wu et al., 2015, Ott et al., 2015). However, in both SAM50 and Mitofilin knockdown cells ER-mitochondria contact sites were still present and their morphology not altered (Fig. 5c-d). Quantitative morphological analysis by HRP-KDEL EM in control and SAM50 or Mitofilin silenced cells confirmed that the abundance of ER-mitochondria contact sites was not altered by SAM50 or Mitofilin knockdown (Fig. 5c-d), indicating that the effects on ORP5/8 interaction at MAMs were not indirectly due to a global rearrangement of the ER-mitochondria contact sites.

Overall our data reveal a novel interaction between ORP5/8 and the MIB/MICOS complex at ER subdomains associated to intra-mitochondrial membrane contacts facing CJ, and a direct role of the MIB/MICOS complex in ORP5/8 targeting/interaction at MAMs.

ORP5/8 and the MIB/MICOS complex regulate PS-to-PE conversion at the ER-mitochondria interface

ORP5 and ORP8 role in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contacts still remains to be established. We hypothesized that ORP5 and ORP8 could mediate PS transport at the ER-mitochondria interface. As the ER-derived PS is the major precursor for mitochondrial PE, if ORP5 and ORP8 mediate non-vesicular transport of PS from the ER to the mitochondria, then their absence should lead to a reduction of mitochondrial PE.

To test whether ORP5 and ORP8 regulate levels of mitochondrial PE *in situ*, we

used Percoll gradient-based subcellular fractionation (as in (Galmes et al., 2016)) to

isolate pure mitochondria from HeLa cells where ORP5 or ORP8 were transiently

silenced by RNAi. We chose to use a transient knockdown as it overcomes the limits

and/or compensatory effects on lipid transport/biosynthetic pathways that other stable

approaches could induce. The purity of mitochondria and of the other subcellular

fractions was verified in control, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown conditions by western

blotting (WB) (Fig. 6a). As controls for the purity of subcellular fractions, the samples

were probed for cytochrome c as mitochondrial marker and IP3R-3 as a MAM-enriched

marker. All markers were highly enriched in their respective fractions and were absent

in the others. In accord with our previous study (Galmes et al., 2016), ORP5 and ORP8

were enriched in the MAM fraction and absent in the mitochondria fraction of control

cells (Fig. 6a). On the contrary, they were strongly suppressed in ORP5 and ORP8

knockdown cell lysates and in the respective MAM fractions (Fig. 6a). The PE content

of purified mitochondria from ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown was then analyzed by mass

spectrometry (MS)-based lipidomics, which revealed a reduction of PE levels in

mitochondria isolated from ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown cells of 34% and 20%,

respectively, as compared to control cells (Fig. 6b). Interestingly, PE levels of the total

cells were unchanged, indicating a specific effect of ORP5 or ORP8 depletion on

mitochondrial PE. These data suggest that ORP5 and ORP8 could transfer PS at ER-

mitochondria contact sites.

We, then, sought to investigate the ability of ORP5 and ORP8 ORD domains

(ORD5 and ORD8) to transfer PS *in vitro*. So far, only the ORD of ORP8 has been

studied for its lipid transfer activity *in vitro*, and it has been shown to transfer PS between

liposome membranes in counter-transport with PI4P or PIP$_2$ *in vitro* (Chung et al. 2015;

Ghai et al, 2017). However, the *in vitro* lipid transfer activity of ORP5 ORD domain has

not been studied yet. Also, no study so far has addressed either the ability of ORD5 and

ORD8 to transfer PS in the absence of a gradient of PI4P or PIP$_2$ or other phospholipids

than PS between liposomes *in vitro*. Thus, to compare and study their role in the transfer

of phospholipids *in vitro*, we purified the recombinant ORD5 (aa 265-703) and ORD8 (aa

328-767) from bacteria (Escherichia coli) (Fig. S5a) and measured their ability to transport

fluorescent phospholipids (TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE) from donor to acceptor liposomes *in*

vitro. Donor liposomes containing fluorescent phospholipids and biotinylated lipids

(liposomes composed of 1 mol% TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE, 2 mol% biotinylated-PE, and

97 mol% POPC) were first immobilized on streptavidin beads and then mixed with

acceptor liposomes (composed of 100 mol% POPC) in the presence or absence of

ORP5/8 ORD domains (Fig. S5b). After 1 hour at 37°C, acceptor liposomes were

recovered from the supernatant and their fluorescence was measured (Fig. S5b). Our

results show that both ORD5 and ORD8 transfer PS, but not PC and PE, from donor to

acceptor liposomes (Fig. S5c). They also reveal that ORD5 and ORD8 share equivalent

ability to transfer PS *in vitro*. To confirm that fluorescent lipids were indeed transferred to

the acceptor liposomes, a fraction of the reaction supernatant was floated on a Nycodenz

density gradient by ultracentrifugation and the fluorescence in the top fraction of the

gradient (containing floated acceptor liposomes) was measured (Fig. S5d). Fluorescence

of TopFluor-PS in the acceptor liposomes was maintained after their floatation, confirming

its effective transfer between liposomes *in vitro*.

In subsequent experiments, we measured the levels of mitochondrial PE newly

synthesized from the ER-derived PS by using a radiometric PS-to-PE conversion

assay *in situ* (Shiao, Lupo et al., 1995) in silenced or control HeLa cells (Fig. 6c). This

assay allows the monitoring of PS transfer from the ER to mitochondria by measuring

the levels of radioactive PS and PS-derived PE by thin layer chromatography (TLC)

after 18h of incorporation of radioactive L-[^{3}H(G)]-serine into the cells. A significant

decrease in the levels of newly synthetized PE was found in ORP5 knockdown and in

ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells (Fig. 6c). The decrease was stronger in

ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells, indicating a cooperative effect of ORP5 and

ORP8 in this process. A slight, not statistically significant decrease was also found in

ORP8 knockdown cells, suggesting a major role of ORP5 compared to ORP8 in PS

transfer at ER-mitochondria contact sites *in situ*. As [^{3}H]-serine radioactivity could be

incorporated to PE also *via* an alternative pathway involving sphingosine (Hanada,

Nishijima et al., 1992), we next sought to address the contribution of this pathway to

PE labeling, by repeating the experiments in control and ORP5 knockdown cells in the

presence of β-chloro-L-alanine, an inhibitor of serine palmitoyltransferase (Chen, Born

et al., 1993). The PS-to-PE conversion was not significantly affected in both control

(~3% of reduction) and ORP5 knockdown cells (~9% of reduction). On the contrary,

PS-to-PE conversion was significantly reduced in β-chloro-L-alanine treated and

untreated ORP5 knockdown cells (~17% and ~23% respectively), as compared to

control (Fig. 6d). These data show that more than 90% of the serine labeling of PE

occurs via PS in HeLa cells, in accord with a previous work in another cell type, the

Baby Hamster Kidney fibroblasts (BHK cells), showing that only a minor PE species are

labeled from the sphingosine-PE pathway (Heikinheimo & Somerharju, 1998).

Additionally, the decrease in PE could be due to a decrease in the protein levels of the

PS-decarboxylase (PISD) or the PS-Synthase 1 (PSS1) enzymes mediating PS-to-PE

conversion on mitochondria or PS synthesis in the ER, respectively. To exclude this

possibility we analyzed the protein levels of PISD and PSS1 by WB in ORP5, ORP8,

ORP5+ORP8 knockdown cells and compared them to control cells (Fig. S5e). We

found no significant difference but rather a slight increase in the enzymes upon ORP5

and/or ORP8 knockdowns. Overall these data confirm that the reduction in

mitochondrial PE induced by depletion of ORP5 is essentially due to the decrease in

PS transfer from the ER to the mitochondria (Fig. S5g).

Even a modest reduction (22-27%) of mitochondrial PE levels in mammalian cells

has been shown to profoundly alter the morphology of mitochondrial cristae as well as

mitochondria functions (Tasseva, Bai et al., 2013). Accordingly, ORP5 and ORP8

knockdowns lead to alterations of mitochondria morphology (Galmes et al., 2016).

However, the impact of ORP5 and ORP8 knockdowns on the abundance of ER-

mitochondria contact sites remain unclear.

To test whether the effects on PS transport at ER-mitochondria contacts were

specific for ORP5 and ORP8 loss of function or simply due to a decrease of ER-

mitochondria contacts induced by their knockdown, we quantified the abundance of

ER-mitochondria contact sites by EM in control and ORP5, ORP8, ORP5+ORP8

knockdown cells. To facilitate the visualization of the ER we transfected the cells with

a HRP-KDEL construct that stains the ER with a dark signal. Our quantifications

revealed that ORP5, ORP8 or ORP5+ORP8 knockdowns did not affect the extent of

ER-mitochondria contact sites (Fig. 6e-f). These results indicate that ORP5 and ORP8

act as LTPs rather than tethers (Fig. 7, S5g). Additionally, 52% of mitochondria in

ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells display aberrant cristae morphology versus 9%

in control cells (Fig. 6e, S5f). These defects in cristae morphology were also observed

by conventional EM (Fig. S4a) and were similar to those previously shown in the case

of ORP5 and ORP8 individual knockdowns (Galmes et al., 2016). However, the % of

mitochondria with altered morphology in ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells was

higher as compared to ORP8 knockdown (Galmes et al., 2016), possibly reflecting the

stronger effect of ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown on PS transport at ER-

mitochondria contact sites (Fig. 6c).

Decreased levels of PE strongly affect the organization of the mitochondrial

respiratory supercomplexes (Tasseva et al., 2013). We had previously shown that

ORP5 knockdown induces a reduction in the basal mitochondrial oxygen consumption

rate (OCR_{BAS}), indicative of reduced respiratory activity (Galmes et al., 2016).

However, it remains still questioned whether ORP8 could also reduce OCR_{BAS} and/or

if this reduction could be exacerbated under metabolic stress conditions. Thus, we

monitored mitochondrial OCR in control, in ORP5 and in ORP8 knockdown cells in

basal and in stress conditions (Fig. S6). ORP5 knockdown induced a significant

reduction in both OCR_{BAS} (~37%) and OCR upon FCCP treatment (OCR_{FCCP}) (~36%).

Interestingly, also ORP8 knockdown induced a significant decrease in OCR_{BAS} (~31%)

and OCR_{FCCP} (~29%), although the decreases were less prominent than upon ORP5

knockdown. These data uncover a novel role of ORP5 and ORP8 in preserving

mitochondrial respiratory activity in basal and in stress conditions, and a major impact

of ORP5 in this process, in accord with its major role in PS transfer at ER-mitochondria

contact sites.

To test whether the interaction of ORP5 with the MIB complex could facilitate

the non-vesicular transfer of PS from the ER to the mitochondrial membranes (and

consequently synthesis of mitochondrial PE) we depleted ORP5, SAM50 or Mitofilin

alone or in combination by RNAi and analyzed the content in mitochondrial PE

newly synthesized from PS using the same radiometric PS-to-PE conversion assay

in situ as described above. Robust knockdown of ORP5, SAM50 or Mitofilin was

confirmed by western blotting after 48 hours (Fig. 6g). Analysis of PS-derived newly

synthetized PE revealed a significant decrease in PE in ORP5 and Mitofilin

knockdown cells (Fig. 6h). Moreover, the double-knockdown of ORP5 and Mitofilin

had an additive effect, supporting a cooperation of these two proteins in the same

process (PS transport/PE synthesis). However, the levels of PE were not changed

in SAM50 knockdown cells as compared to control. This can be explained by the

fact that other subunits of the MIB complex (*i.e.* Mitofilin) might compensate for its

depletion. Indeed, protein levels of Mitofilin are increased in SAM50 knockdown

cells (Fig. 6g). Interestingly, also the levels of both ORP5 protein and RNA are

increased in SAM50 knockdown cells (Fig. 6g, S3b). Accordingly, the double-

silencing of SAM50 and either ORP5 or Mitofilin had a significant impact on PE

synthesis (Fig. 6h). Moreover, the reduction in PE was even stronger as compared

to the individual knockdowns indicating that disruption of both a component

implicated in a direct transport of PS at ER-mitochondria contact sites and a

component of the OMM-IMM tethering complex has a significant impact on PE

synthesis.

Morphological analysis by conventional EM in all these knockdown conditions was

carried out, showing that transient double-knockdowns of ORP5+Mitofilin,

ORP5+SAM50 and SAM50+Mitofilin, similarly to the individual knockdowns of SAM50

and Mitofilin, induces formation of multilamellar cristae, almost devoid of CJ (Fig. S4a-

b). However, in all double-knockdown conditions analyzed ER-mitochondria contact sites

were still present and their morphology not altered, as shown for the individual

knockdowns of ORP5/8 (Fig. 6f), SAM50 and Mitofilin (Fig. 5c-d), indicating that the

effects on PS-derived PE synthesis were specifically due to Mitofilin or SAM50 loss of

function effects on intra-mitochondrial membrane bridges.

Overall our results reveal that ORP5/8 cooperate with the MIB/MICOS complex to

regulate the transfer of PS from the ER to the mitochondrial membranes necessary for

synthesis of mitochondrial PE and consequently for maintaining mitochondrial cristae

morphology and respiration (Fig. 7).

DISCUSSION

In this study, by using a combination of biochemical and imaging approaches, we

uncover for the first time the endogenous localization of ORP5 and ORP8, revealing that

they are mainly localized at ER-mitochondria contact sites (Fig. 1-2 and Fig. S1-2), and

providing novel evidence for a physiological relevance of the ORP5/8 complex at MAMs.

So far, ORP5 and ORP8 localization have been only studied in conditions where one of

these two partner proteins were expressed in high excess as compared to the other one.

Previous studies, including one from our group, have shown that overexpression of ORP5

induces an increase of ER-PM contacts where the protein also localizes (Chung et al.,

2015, Galmes et al., 2016). Consequently, several following studies have addressed the

role of ORP5 and ORP8 at ER-PM contacts, overlooking their function at MAM. However,

the increase in cortical ER observed upon ORP5 overexpression does not reflect the

physiological abundance of ER-PM contacts, as the cortical ER in non-specialized cells

generally covers not more than 5% of the plasma membrane surface. Indeed, we have

found that the increased localization of ORP5 to cortical ER when over-expressed alone

does not reflect its endogenous localization when it is in complex with ORP8, which is

instead enriched at MAMs. Our findings have important implications for a better

understanding of the physiological localization and function of ORP proteins, but also of

other proteins that assemble in multimeric complexes at ER-mediated membrane contact

sites, such as the E-Syts (Giordano, Saheki et al., 2013).

Our study also reveals that ORP5/8 physically interact with SAM50 and Mitofilin,

two key components of the MIB/MICOS complex that anchor the IMM to the OMM at the

523 level of CJ (Huynen et al., 2016, Ott et al., 2015, Wollweber et al., 2017). The biochemical

524 interaction between ORP5 and SAM50/Mitofilin uncovers the existence of a novel physical

525 link between ER-mitochondria contact sites involved in lipid transport and intra-

526 mitochondrial membrane contacts. ORP5 localization by IEM at ER-mitochondria contact

527 sites near the CJ, where Mitofilin and MICOS complex also reside, further confirms the

528 existence of such tripartite membrane contact site structure. Moreover, knockdown of

529 SAM50 and Mitofilin does not affect ER-mitochondria contact sites, but perturbs the

530 interaction of ORP5/8 at MAMs.

531 Importantly, here we describe a new function of ORP5 and ORP8 in the maintenance

532 of mitochondrial levels of PE, an essential phospholipid of mitochondria, providing the first

533 evidence of mammalian LTPs directly mediating non-vesicular transfer of PS (lipid

534 precursor of mitochondrial PE) from the MAMs to the mitochondria at ER-mitochondria

535 contact sites.

536 In yeast, large tethering complexes such as the ERMES and the ER-Membrane

537 protein Complex (EMC) have been previously involved in phospholipid trafficking (PC

538 and PS, respectively) between the ER and the mitochondrial membranes (Tamura &

539 Endo, 2017) (Lang, John Peter et al., 2015). For instance, three subunits of the

540 ERMES complex contain a Synaptotagmin-like Mitochondria lipid binding Protein

541 (SMP) domain that forms a hydrophobic lipid transport cavity shared by other proteins

542 of the tubular lipid-binding protein TULIP superfamily (Kopec, Alva et al., 2010,

543 Reinisch & De Camilli, 2016). However, a direct role (independent of its tethering

544 function) of ERMES in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites is still

545 questioned. For a long time homologues of the ERMES complex have not been

546 identified in metazoans. Hirabayashi et al. recently showed that the SMP-containing

547 protein PDZD8 is involved in ER-mitochondria tethering and in the regulation of Ca^{2+}

dynamics in mammalian neurons (Hirabayashi et al., 2017). Although PDZD8 is a

structural and functional paralogous of the Mmm1 subunit of the ERMES complex

(Wideman et al., 2018), its function in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites

remain unclear. The EMC complex, which has been involved in PS shuttling at ER-

mitochondria contact sites in yeast, is instead highly conserved in metazoans

(Wideman, 2015). However, no lipid-binding/transfer domain has been found in the

EMC proteins, indicating that their implication in lipid transfer at ER-mitochondria

contacts is linked to their tethering function rather than to a direct lipid transfer activity.

Recently, the mammalian LTP VPS13A has been shown to localize to contact sites

including ER-mitochondria contacts (Kumar et al., 2018). VPS13A contains a lipid-

binding domain (VPS13α) that has the ability to harbor multiple phospholipids at once

and transfer them between liposomes *in vitro*. However, its role in lipid transfer at ER-

mitochondria membrane contact sites *in situ* has not yet been established. Differently

from the SMP and VPS13α domains that can simultaneously host multiple

phospholipids, the ORD domain of Osh/ORPs forms a cavity that can host only one

lipid at a time (Maeda, Anand et al., 2013, Wang, Ma et al., 2019).

An important finding of our work is that ORP5 and ORP8 knockdowns do not affect

the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites, revealing that the main function of ORP5/8

at MAMs is lipid transfer and not membrane tethering. This is a unique feature among

the LTPs that have been identified so far at MAMs. For instance, knockdowns of other

LTPs such as ERMES in yeast, or PDZD8 and VPS13A in mammals, result in a

decrease of ER-mitochondria contact sites (Hirabayashi et al., 2017, Kornmann, Currie

et al., 2009, Kumar et al., 2018), making difficult to dissect the lipid transfer activity

from the tethering function of these LTPs. Thus, ORP5/8 represent so far a unique

example of LTPs that specifically mediate lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contact

sites, independently of membrane tethering, and that can be used as unique tools to

specifically study lipid transport at MAMs.

ORP5 and ORP8 have been previously shown to counter-exchange PS with the PM

phosphoinositides PI4P and PIP$_2$ at ER-PM contact sites in HeLa cells (Chung et al.,

2015, Ghai, Du et al., 2017). However, PI4P and PIP$_2$ are not present on the

mitochondrial membranes, while PE is highly abundant in these membranes, in

addition to being an essential lipid of all biological membranes. Our *in vitro* data show

that the ORD domains of ORP5 and ORP8 transport PS, but not other phospholipids such

as PE and PC, indicating a specific role of ORP5/8 in PS transport and excluding the

possibility that ORP5/8 might also participate in the transport of a fraction of PE back

to the ER. It is possible that ORP5/8 cooperate with other LTPs, such as VPS13A, for the

exchange of other lipids (including PE) at ER-mitochondria contact sites. Importantly,

we have confirmed the role of ORP5/8 in PS transfer by measuring a decrease of PS-

derived mitochondrial PE in ORP5 depleted HeLa cells *in situ* (and even more upon

ORP5+8 silencing) as well as a reduction of total PE in mitochondria isolated from

these cells (Fig. 6a-d). Accordingly, the knockdown of ORP5/8 affects cristae

morphology and the respiratory function of mitochondria (Galmes et al., 2016)(Fig. 6e-

f, S6), all phenotypes that are expected in the case of decrease in mitochondrial PE

(Joshi et al., 2012, Steenbergen et al., 2005). Our data further confirm the essential

role of PE in the maintenance of mitochondrial structure and functions, and are in

accord with those of (Tasseva et al., 2013) showing that even a mild decrease of

mitochondrial PE can strongly alter mitochondrial cristae morphology and respiratory

function. Our data also suggest that the gradient of PS at ER-mitochondria contacts is

sufficient to trigger the ORP5/8-mediated transport of PS from the MAMs, where it is

highly enriched, to the mitochondria membranes, where it is rapidly converted into PE

and is therefore present at a very low concentration. Our findings have important

implications in the general field of LTPs, as they suggest that the same LTP can use

different means to transfer lipids depending on the local gradients present at the

specific membrane contact sites where it is localized.

Importantly, we also show that the *de-novo* synthesis of mitochondrial PE requires

both ORP5/8 at ER-mitochondria contact sites and the MIB/MICOS complex at intra-

mitochondrial OMM-IMM contact sites (Fig. 6h). Interestingly, recent evidence in yeast

suggests that, in addition to the classical PE synthesis at the IMM by the IMM-localized

PS-decarboxylase PISD, PE can also be synthesized *in trans* on the OMM (Aaltonen,

Friedman et al., 2016). Thus, it is possible that this alternative pathway, which requires

MIB/MICOS tethering function to bring the mitochondrial intermembrane domain of

PISD close to the OMM for synthesis of PE, is conserved also in mammalian cells. The

cooperation of ORP5 with SAM50 and Mitofilin could facilitate the movement of PS from

the ER to the IMM across ER-mitochondria contact sites for synthesis of PE at the

IMM, through the classical PE synthesis pathway, but also PISD function *in trans* on

the OMM through this alternative biosynthetic pathway. Taken together these findings

provide the first evidence of a physical and functional link between ER-mitochondria

contacts and intra-mitochondrial membranes contacts maintained by the MIB/MICOS

complexes, to facilitate transport of PS from the ER to the mitochondria and PE

synthesis on the mitochondrial membranes (Fig. 7).

In conclusion, our data reveal that: 1) ORP5/8 form a protein complex that is

endogenously enriched at ER-mitochondria contacts; 2) ORP5/8 constitute the molecular

machinery mediating PS transfer at ER-mitochondria contact sites but not ER-

mitochondria tethering; 3) ER-mitochondria contacts where ORP5/8 localize are

physically associated with intra-mitochondrial contacts, maintained by the MIB/MICOS

complex, to facilitate the transport of PS from the ER to mitochondria membranes.

Overall our study provides a first molecular clue on how lipids are transported at ER-

mitochondria contact sites and novel functional insight into the complex interplay of the

ER with the mitochondria and the intra-mitochondrial membrane contacts and associated

machinery.

METHODS

Cell culture, siRNA and transfection.

HeLa cells were cultured in DMEM (Life Technologies) containing GlutaMax (Life

Technologies) and supplemented with 10% FBS (Life Technologies) and 1%

penicillin/streptomycin (Life Technologies) at 37°C and 5% CO_2. Transfection of

plasmids and siRNA oligos (Dharmacon, GE Healthcare) was carried out with

lipofectamine 2000 and oligofectamine (Life Technologies) according to

manufacturer's instructions.

siRNAs oligonucleotides

For knockdowns, HeLa cells were transfected with siRNA oligos by using

oligofectamine (Life Technologies) and cultured for 48 hours prior to analysis.

Double-stranded siRNAs were derived from the following references:

siRNA	Company, Reference
OSBPL8	Dharmacon, J-009508-06 (Galmes et al., 2016)
OSBPL8	Dharmacon, J-009508-05 (Galmes et al., 2016)
OSBPL5	Dharmacon, J-009274-10 (Galmes et al., 2016)
OSBPL5	Dharmacon, J-009274-11 (Galmes et al., 2016)

SAMM50	Dharmacon, J-017871-18
SAMM50	Dharmacon, J-017871-19
Non-targeting	Dharmacon, D-001810-10
siMitofilin	5' - AAUUGCUGGAGCUGGCCUUTT-3' (John, Shang et al., 2005)

Plasmids and cDNA clones

EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH, EGFP-ORP8ΔPH, EGFP-

ORP5ΔORD and EGFP-ORP5ΔTM were described in (Galmes et al., 2016). GFP-

Sec22b and RFP-Sec22b (Gallo, Danglot et al., 2020). The following reagents were

kind gifts: GFP-Sec61β from T. Rapoport (Harward University)(Shibata, Voss et al.,

2008), PHPLCδ-RFP (Chung et al., 2015); Mito-BFP (Addgene: # 49151); ssHRP-

KDEL from T. Schikorski (Schikorski, Young et al., 2007); GST-ORD8 (ORD ORP8,

corresponding to aa 328-767) from P. De Camilli (Chung et al., 2015). GECO

constructs were from Robert Campbell (Addgene: CMV-R-GECO1 # 32444, CMV-

mito-R-GECO1 # 46021, CMV-ER-LAR-GECO1 # 61244, CMV-mito-LAR-GECO1.2 #

61245).

Cloning of HA-ORP5, Mitofilin-GFP and GST- ORD5 (ORD ORP5)

cDNAs of ORP5 (full-length), Mitoflin (full-length from FLAG-mitofilin (Ott et al., 2015))

and GST-ORD5 (corresponding to aa 265-703), were amplified by PCR. In all PCR

reactions, Herculase II fusion DNA polymerase (Agilent) was used.

Primers used were (coding sequence shown in lowercase):

5' AgeI-HA-ORP5_Fw GGCGGC *ACCGGT* cgccacc ATGTACCCATACGATGTTCCA

GATTACGCT atgaaggaggaggccttcctc

3' XhoI-STOP-ORP5_Rv GGC *CTCGAG* ctatttgaggatgtggttaatg

663 5' KpnI-Mitofilin_Fw AGACCCAAGCTT *GGTACC* atg

664 3' BamHI-GC-Mitofilin_Rv GTAATC *GGATTC* GC ctctggct

665 5' SalI-TC-ORD5_Fw GCACAG GTCGAC TC gagacccctggggccccggt

666 3' NotI-STOP-ORD5_Rv GCACA *GCGGCCGC* ctactgtggccggagggctggtcg

667 For the HA-ORP5 cloning the PCR product (carrying the HA tag at the N-

668 terminus of ORP5) was ligated between AgeI and XhoI in the pEGFP-C1 vector

669 (Clontech) and replacing the GFP- with the HA-tag. For the other clonings the PCR

670 products were ligated between KpnI and BamHI for Mitofilin, and between SalI and

671 NotI for ORD5, in the pEGFP-N1 vector (Clontech) to generate Mitofilin-EGFP or in

672 the pGEX-6P-1 to generate GST-ORD5.

674 **mRNA analyses by quantitative reverse transcriptase PCR (qPCR)**

675 Total RNA was isolated from HeLa cells transfected with siRNAs for 48 hours as

676 described above, by using a Purelink™ kit (Ambion/Thermo Scientific, Foster City,

677 CA). The RNA (0.5 μg per specimen) was reverse transcribed with a SuperScript

678 VILO™ cDNA synthesis kit (Invitrogen/Thermo Scientific, Carlsbad, CA) according to

679 the manufacturer's protocol. Quantification of the mRNAs of interest was carried out

680 on a Roche Lightcycler™ 480 II instrument by using SYBR-Green I Master mix (Roche,

681 Basel, Switzerland) and primers specified in Table SX. Succinate dehydrogenase

682 complex. subunit A, the mRNA of which remained markedly stable under the present

683 conditions, was employed as a reference housekeeping mRNA. Relative mRNA levels

684 were calculated by using the $-\Delta\Delta$Ct method.

685 Sequences of the primers used for qPCR:

mRNA	Sequence 5'-3'
SDHA* (housekeeping)	Fw: CATGCTGCCGTGTTCCGTGTGGG

	Rv:
	GGACAGGGTGTGCTTCCTCCAGTGCTCC
ORP5	Fw: GTGCCGCTGGAGGAGCAGAC
	Rv: AGGGGCTGTGGTCCTCGTATC
SAMM50	Fw: CAAGTGGACCTGATTTTGGAGG
	Rv: AGACGGAGCAATTTTTCACGG
Mitofilin	Fw: GTTGTATCTCAGTATCATGAGCTGG
	Rv: GTTCAGCTGATCAATACGACGA

686   *succinate dehydrogenase complex, subunit A

688   **Antibodies, dyes and reagents list**

689   Primary antibodies used in this study were:

	Antibody	Company & Reference
WB	IP3R-3	BD Transduction Laboratories, 610312
WB/IF/DUO	ORP5	SIGMA, HPA038712
WB	ORP5	SIGMA, HPA058727
WB	beta-Actin	Abcam, ab8226
DUO/IF	ORP8	Santa Cruz,
WB/IF/DUO	ORP8	GeneTex, GTX121273
IF, WB,DUO	SAMM50	SIGMA, HPA034537
WB	Mitofilin	Proteintech, 10179-1-AP
WB	PDI	GeneTex, GTX30716
WB	VAPB	SIGMA, HPA013144
WB	PSS1 (PTDSS1)	SIGMA, HPA016852
WB	PISD	SIGMA,HPA031090
IF, WB	GFP	Roche, 11814460001
IEM	GFP	Life technologies, A11122
IEM	PDI	Genetex, GTX30716

IF	HA	SIGMA, H3663
IF	FLAG M2	SIGMA, F1804
IF	MitoTracker® Red CMXRos	M7512, Invitrogen
IF	MitoTracker® Deep Red FM	M22426, Invitrogen

Western blot

For immunoblotting, cells were resuspended in lysis buffer [50 mM Tris, 150 mM

NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.2, and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche)].

Cell lysates were then centrifuged at 21 000 g for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatants

were boiled in reducing SDS sample buffer and proteins were separated using 10%

SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was carried using standard methods.

For Western blot quantification, bands of protein of interest were detected using

ChemiDoc™ Imaging Systems (Life Science Research, Bio-Rad) and analyzed using

Image Lab™ Software. All data are presented as mean ±SEM of three experimental

replicates.

Immunoprecipitation of ORPs

HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-tagged ORPs were washed in cold PBS and

lysed on ice in lysis buffer [50 mM Tris, 120 mM NaCl, 40 mM Hepes, 0.5% digitonin,

0.5% CHAPS, pH 7.36, and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). Cell lysates were then

centrifuged at 21 000 g for 20 min at 4°C. Supernatants were then incubated with

Chromotek GFP-trap agarose beads (Allele Biotech) for 1 hour at 4°C under rotation.

Subsequently beads were washed in 0.1 M phosphate buffer. After extensive washes

in cold lysis buffer, immunoprecipitated proteins bound to the beads were processed

for Mass Spectrometry analysis (see below) or incubated in sample buffer (containing

2% SDS) and then boiled for 1 min. In the latter case immunoprecipitates were loaded

and separated in 10% SDS–PAGE gel and immunoblotting was carried out.

Cell fractionation

HeLa cells (100×10^6 cells) were harvested 48 hours after transfection with siRNA

oligos and washed with PBS by centrifugation at 600 g for 5 min. The cell pellet was

resuspended in starting buffer (225 mM mannitol, 75 mM sucrose and 30 mM Tris-HCl

pH 7.4) and homogenized using a Tissue Grinder Dura-Grind®, Stainless Steel,

Dounce (Wheaton). The homogenate was centrifuged three times at 600 g for 5 min

to remove nuclei and unbroken cells. The crude mitochondria was pelleted by

centrifugation at 10 000 g for 10 min. To separate MAM and pure mitochondria

fractions, the pellet was resuspended in MRB buffer (250 mM mannitol, 5 mM HEPES

and 0.5 mM EGTA, pH 7.4) and layered on top of different concentrations of Percoll

gradient (225 mM mannitol, 25 mM HEPES, 1 mM EGTA pH 7.4 and 30% or 15%

Percoll). After centrifugation at 95 000 g for 30 min, two dense bands containing either

the pure mitochondria or MAM fraction were recovered and washed twice with MRB

buffer by centrifugation at 6300 g for 10 min to remove residual Percoll and residual

contamination. MAM was pelleted by centrifugation at 100 000 g for 1 hour. MAMs and

pure mitochondria pellets were resuspended in Lysis Buffer (50 mM Tris, 150 mM

NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.2, and protease inhibitor cocktail) and

protein concentrations were determined by Bradford assay. Equal amount of proteins

were loaded on 4-20% gradient SDS-PAGE gels (Biorad) and immunoblotting was

carried out. Pure mitochondria were processed for MS-lipidomic analysis (see below).

Mass spectrometry-proteomic analysis

Mass Spectrometry (MS) analysis was carried out by the proteomics/mass

spectrometry platform in IJM (http://www.ijm.fr/plateformes/spectrometrie-de-masse).

Briefly, after washes with binding buffer, immunoprecipitations beads were rinsed with

100 µl of NH4HCO3 25 mmol/l. Proteins on beads were digested overnight at 37°C by

sequencing grade trypsin (12.5 µg/ml; Promega Madison, Wi, USA) in 20 µl of

NH4HCO3 25 mmol/l. Digests were analysed by an Orbitrap Fusion (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, San Jose, CA) equipped with a Thermo Scientific EASY-Spray

nanoelectrospray ion source and coupled to an Easy nano-LC Proxeon 1000 system

(Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA). MS/MS data were processed with Proteome

Discoverer 1.4 software (Thermo Fisher scientific, San Jose, CA) coupled to an in

house Mascot search server (Matrix Science, Boston, MA; version 2.4.2). MS/MS

datas were searched against SwissProt databases with Homo sapiens taxonomy.

The Mascot score for a protein is the summed score for the individual peptides, e.g.

peptide masses and peptide fragment ion masses, for all peptides matching a given

protein. For a positive protein identification, the mascot score has to be above the 95%

confidence level. In Mascot, the ions score for an MS/MS match is based on the

calculated probability, P, that the observed match between the experimental data and

the database sequence is a random event. The reported score is $-10Log_{10}(P)$. A score

of 200 indicates a probability of 10^{-20}. Scores greater than 70 are significant, while

scores lower than 40 should not be considered or carefully validated at MS/MS level

(source: http://www.matrixscience.com/help/interpretation_help.html). We thus set up

a Mascot score threshold of 50.

Fluorescence Microscopy

Immunofluorescence and Confocal Microscopy

HeLa cells were seeded on 13 mm glass bottom coverslips (Agar Scientific).

Immunofluorescence was carried out one day after transfection. Transfected cells

were fixed with 4% PFA/PBS for 15 min at room temperature, washed in PBS and

incubated with 50 mM NH4Cl/PBS for 15 min at room temperature. After washing with

PBS and blocking buffer (1% BSA/ 0.1% Saponin in PBS), cells were incubated with

primary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer for 1 hour at room temperature and then

with fluorescently-labeled secondary antibodies. After washing with blocking buffer and

then PBS, coverslips were mounted on microscopy slides and images were acquired

on Confocal inverted microscope SP8-X (DMI 6000 Leica). Optical sections were

acquired with a Plan Apo 63x oil immersion objective (N.A. 1.4, Leica) using the LAS-

X software. Fluorescence was excited using either a 405nm laser diode or a white light

laser, and later collected after adjusting the spectral windows with GaAsP PMTs or

Hybrid detectors. Images from a mid-focal plane are shown. Images were processed

and fluorescence was analysed off line using Image J.

Quantifications

For co-localization analysis of fluorescent signals, the acquired images were

processed using the JACoP plugin in ImageJ to assess the Pearson's correlation

coefficient. The obtained values, ranging from 0 to 1 (1=max correlation), indicated the

association between the signals analysed.

Electron Microscopy Analysis

Conventional EM

For conventional EM, cells grown on 13 mm glass bottom coverslips (Agar

Scientific) were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde and 2% PFA in 0.1 M cacodylate,

0.05% $CaCl_2$ buffer for 24 hours. After several washes with 0.1 M cacodylate buffer,

the cells were postfixed with 1% OsO_4, 1.5% potassium ferricyanide in 0.1M

Cacodylate for 1 hour. After several washes with 0.1 M cacodylate buffer and H_2O, the

cells were stained with 0.5% uranyl acetate for 24 hours. After several washes with

H_2O, the cells were dehydrated in ethanol and embedded in Epon while on the

coverslips. Ultrathin sections were prepared, counterstained with uranyl acetate and

observed under a MET JEOL 1400 equipped with a Orius High speed (Gatan) camera.

HRP Detection

HeLa cells expressing HRP-KDEL were fixed on coverslips with 1.3%

glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer, washed in 0.1 M ammonium phosphate [pH

7.4] buffer for 1 hour and HRP was visualized with 0.5 mg/ml DAB and 0.005% H_2O_2

in 0.1 M Ammonium Phosphate [pH 7.4] buffer. Development of HRP (DAB dark

reaction product) took between 5 min to 20 min and was stopped by extensive washes

with cold water. Cells were postfixed in 2% OsO_4+1% $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ in 0.1 M cacodylate

buffer at 4°C for 1 hour, washed in cold water and then contrasted in 0.5% uranyl

acetate for 2 hours at 4°C, dehydrated in an ethanol series and embedded in epon as

for conventional EM. Ultrathin sections were counterstained with 2% uranyl acetate

and observed under a FEI Tecnai 12 microscope equipped with a CCD (SiS 1kx1k

keenView) camera.

Immunogold labelling

HeLa cells were fixed with a mixture of 2%PFA and 0.125% glutaraldehyde in

0.1 M phosphate buffer [pH 7.4] for 2 hours, and processed for ultracryomicrotomy as

described previously (Slot & Geuze, 2007). Ultrathin cryosections were single- or

double-immunogold-labeled with antibodies and protein A coupled to 10 or 15 nm gold

(CMC, UMC Utrecht, The Netherlands), as indicated in the legends to the figures.

Immunogold-labeled cryosections were observed under a FEI Tecnai 12 microscope

equipped with a CCD (SiS 1kx1k keenView) camera.

Quantifications

For the quantification of the number of cristae junction in Epon sections, about 200

mitochondria were analyzed in randomly selected cell profiles and cristae junctions

were counted in each of the mitochondria profile and reported as number of

cristae/mitochondria profile. All data are presented as mean ±SEM of three

experimental replicates.

For the quantification of ER-mitochondria contact sites in HRP-stained Epon

sections, the total circumference of each mitochondria and the length of the multiple

HRP-positive ER segments closely associated (<30 nm) with them were measured by

iTEM software (Olympus) on acquired micrographs of HeLa cells for each of 20-30 cell

profiles, as indicated in the figure legends. Cells were randomly selected for analysis

without prior knowledge of transfected plasmid or siRNA. All data are presented as

mean (%) ±SEM of three experimental replicates.

For the quantification of immunogold labeling on ultrathin cryosections, 150 gold

particles were counted on acquired micrographs of randomly selected cell profiles at

specific ranges of distance from CJ (0-50, 50-100, 100-150, 150-200 nm) in each of

three experiments. All data are presented as mean (%) ±SEM of three technical

replicates.

***In situ* proximity ligation assay (PLA)**

The protein-protein interactions in fixed HeLa cells were assessed using *in situ*

PLA (Duolink[®]SIGMA) according with the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, HeLa

cells seeded on glass coverslips were incubated with MitoTracker Red (1 μM in DMEM,

mitochondrial marker) for 30 min at 37°C or co-transfected with PHPLCd-RFP (plasma

membrane marker) plus Mito-BFP (mitochondrial marker). Cells were thereafter fixed

with 4% PFA for 30 minutes at room temperature and incubated with primary

antibodies, monoclonal mouse anti-human ORP8 (1:150) polyclonal rabbit plus anti-

human ORP5 (1:200, SIGMA), or monoclonal mouse anti-human ORP8 (1:150) plus

polyclonal rabbit anti-human SAM50 (1:250, SIGMA), in blocking solution (1% BSA,

w/v 0.01% saponin, w/v, in PBS) for 1h at room temperature. PLUS and MINUS PLA

probes (anti-murine and anti-rabbit IgG antibodies conjugated with oligonucleotides,

1:5 in blocking solution) were then incubated with the samples for 1h at 37°C.

Coverslips were thereafter washed in 1x wash buffer A and incubated with ligation

solution (5x Duolink$^{®}$ Ligation buffer 1:5, ligase 1:40 in high purity water) for 30 min at

37°C. After the ligation step, cell samples were washed in 1x wash buffer A and

incubated with the polymerase solution (5x Amplification buffer 1:5, polymerase 1:80

in high purity water) for 1h40min at 37°C. Polymerase solution was washed out from

the coverslips with 1x wash buffer B and 0.01x wash buffer B. Vectashield Mounting

Medium with or without DAPI (Vector Laboratories) was used for mounting.

Quantification of PLA

The number and the distance of PLA dots to mitochondria and to the plasma

membrane were assessed using the Imaris software (v 9.3, Bitplane). Briefly,

segmented 3D images (PLA foci identified as "spots", mitochondria identified as

"surfaces", and plasma membrane represented as "cell" were generated from confocal

Z-stack images and the shortest distance between each spot center and the nearest

point of the surface or cell object was calculated based on a 3D distance map. Spots

objects (PLA dots) with a distance smaller than 380nm from surfaces (mitochondria)

and cell (plasma membrane) objects were considered at a close proximity of these

objects. The threshold of 380 nm was used as an estimation of the PLA reaction

precision including both primary and secondary antibodies (30nm) plus half the FWHM

of the PLA amplification signals (350nm).

Mass Spectrometry-lipidomic analysis

700 µl of homogenized cells were mixed with 800 µl 1 N HCl:CH$_3$OH 1:8 (v/v), 900

µl CHCl$_3$ and 200 µg/ml of the antioxidant 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT;

Sigma Aldrich). The organic fraction was evaporated using a Savant Speedvac

spd111v (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Lipid pellets were reconstituted in running solution

(CH$_3$OH:CHCl$_3$:NH$_4$OH; 90:10:1.25; v/v/v). Phospholipid species were analyzed by

electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (ESI-MS/MS) on a hybrid triple

quadrupole/linear ion trap mass spectrometer (4000 QTRAP system; Applied

Biosystems SCIEX) equipped with a TriVersa NanoMate (Advion Biosciences) robotic

nanosource. Phospholipid profiling was executed by (positive or negative) precursor

ion or neutral loss scanning at a collision energy of 35 eV for neutral loss 141

(phosphatidylethanolamine (PE)). Phospholipid quantification was performed by

multiple reaction monitoring (MRM), the transitions being based on the neutral losses

or the typical product ions as described above. The MRM dwell time was set to 100

ms and typically the signal was averaged over 20 cycles. Lipid standards used were

PE25:0 and PE43:6 (Avanti Polar Lipids). The data were corrected for isotope effects

as described by (Liebisch, Lieser et al., 2004).

Lipid Transfer assay

ORP5 and ORP8 ORD domain purification

Escherichia coli BL21DE3 RILP (Invitrogen) cells were transformed with plasmids

encoding for GST tagged ORP5 or ORP8 ORD domains following the manufacturer's

instruction. Bacteria were then grown overnight at 37°C and used to inoculate a large-

scale volume (1L). When the OD_{600} reached 0.4, cultures were cooled down and

incubated at 18°C until they reached O_{D600} = 0.65. Cells were induced by addition

of isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside to a final concentration of 0.1 mM and

incubated overnight at 18°C before harvesting. Cells were resuspended in 35 mL

binding buffer (1X PBS, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, Protease inhibitor) then 250 units of

benzonase nuclease (Sigma) were added to the resuspension. Cells were lysed by

sonication and the supernatant was recover after 20 min centrifugation at 184 000g

and 4°C. Supernatant containing GST tagged proteins was incubated with 2 mL of

Glutathione Sepharose 4 fast flow for 1 hour at 4°C under nutation. Beads were

washed using a series of wash buffers: 1st (1X PBS, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT), 2nd

HSP-removal buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, 20 mM $MgCl_2$, 5 mM ATP) then

cleavage buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT). Cleavage

of the GST tag was realized overnight at 4°C using Prescission protease. Untagged

proteins were eluted with cleavage buffer, flash frozen and stored at -80°C until lipid

transfer assay was performed.

Lipids

1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine   (POPC),   1,2-dioleoyl-sn-

glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-N-(cap biotinyl) (Biotinyl Cap PE), 1-palmitoyl-2-

(dipyrrometheneboron   difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine

(TopFluor-PE), 1-palmitoyl-2-(dipyrrometheneboron difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-glycero-

3-phospho-L-serine   (TopFluor-PS),   1-palmitoyl-2-(dipyrrometheneboron

difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (TopFluor-PC) were purchased from Avanti Polar Lipids as chloroform solutions.

Liposome preparation

1 µmol of the appropriate lipid mixtures in chloroform solution was dried in a glass tube for 10 min under a gentle stream of argon, and then for 1 hour under vacuum. The dried lipid films were resuspended in 1 mL of buffer H (25 mM HEPES/KOH, pH 7.7; 150 mM KCl; 10%(v/v) Glycerol) by vigorously vortexing for 30 min at room temperature. Unilamellar liposomes were produced by seven freeze-thaw cycles (30 sec in liquid nitrogen followed by 5 min in a 37°C water bath) and extrusion (at least 21 times) through a polycarbonate filter with 100 nm pore size (polycarbonate membranes from Avanti Polar Lipids). The liposomes were then stored on ice.

Lipid Transfer assay in vitro

The lipid transfer assays were realized with liposomes prepared as described above. The donor liposomes contained 1% mol TopFluor lipids (-PS, -PC or -PE) and 2% mol Biotinyl Cap PE. The acceptor liposomes contained only POPC. For each reaction, 25 µL of streptavidin-coated magnetic beads (DynabeadsMyOne Streptavidin T1, Invitrogen) were washed in buffer H and mixed with 25 µL of 1 mM donor liposomes. The mixture was incubated for 1 hour at 25°C with intermittent gentle mixing. Bead-bound donor liposomes were then washed, resuspended in 25 µL and mixed with 25 µL of 1 mM acceptor liposomes and 50 µL of buffer H or protein (0.3 µM protein and 2.5 µM TopFluor lipids in the reaction solution). The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 1 hour with intermittent gentle mixing. Supernatant containing acceptor liposomes was recovered after binding of bead-bound donor liposomes to a magnetic rack. TopFluor fluorescence of acceptor and donor liposomes was measured (after solubilization with 0.4% (w/v) n-dodecyl-β-D-maltoside, DDM) in a SpectraMax M5

plate reader (Molecular Device) equilibrated to 30°C (excitation: 450 nm; emission:

510 nm; cutoff: 475 nm; low gain). The percentage of lipids transferred from donor to

acceptor liposomes was determined using the following formula:

$100*F_{acceptor}/(F_{acceptor}+F_{donor})$. To confirm that fluorescence was transferred to acceptor

liposomes, a fraction of the reaction supernatant – which has not been solubilized with

DDM – was floated on a Nycodenz density gradient. 50 μL of supernatant was mixed

with 100 μL of buffer H and 150 μL of Nycodenz 80% in buffer H. The solution was

transferred to a 0.8 mL Ultra-Clear centrifuge tube (Beckman Coulter) and overlaid

with 250 μL of Nycodenz 30% in buffer H and 75 μL of buffer H. The tubes were

centrifuged in a SW 55 Ti rotor (Beckman Coulter) at 246,000 g for 4 hours at 4 °C. 50

μL were collected from the top of the gradient and the fluorescence was measured.

Radiometric assay for the conversion of PS to PE *in situ*

Hela cells were seeded on 6-well plates and transfected for 48 hours with the

non-targeting, ORP5 or ORP8-specific siRNAs specified above by using

Oligofectamine (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The cells were then washed and shifted

into Hanks balanced salt solution (Gibco) supplemented with a serine-free MEM

amino acid mixture and MEM vitamins (Gibco), followed by 18 hours labeling with 2

μl/well L-[^{3}H(G)]serine (30.9 Ci/mmol, NET24800, Perkin-Elmer)(Fig. 1e). In parallel

experiments (Fig. 1f) cells were starved in serum-free medium for 10 hours and then

treated with 1mM β-chloro-L-alanine (SIGMA) for 2 hours or left in serum-free

medium, followed by 1hr pulse with 15 μCi/ml of [^{3}H(G)]serine and 12 hours chase in

serum-free DMEM. After the labeling (Fig. 1e) or the chase (Fig. 1f), the cells were

scraped into 0.9 ml 2% NaCl per well, a 0.1 ml aliquot was withdrawn for protein

analysis with the BCA assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and, after adding 50 nmol of

unlabeled PS as carrier, the remaining 0.8 ml was subjected to lipid extraction by an

acid modification of the Folch method (Kim, Song et al., 2017). After drying, the lipids

were resolved in 50 μl CHCl$_3$ and applied on Merck TLC Silica gel 60^{TM} plates,

followed by separation by using CHCl$_3$-methanol-acetic acid-H2O (50:30:8:3.5) as

solvent. The PS and PE spots identified from the mobility of standards run on the

same plates were scraped into scintillation vials for analysis of [^{3}H] radioactivity. The

DPM values were corrected for total cell protein, and the ratio of [^{3}H] in PE vs. PS

calculated.

Mitochondrial respiration assay

Oxygen Consumption rate (OCR) was measured using the XF$_p$ Extracellular Flux

Analyzer (Seahorse Bioscience Inc.). HeLa cells were seeded on a 6-well plate 3 days

before the Seahorse experiment and knockdown of the proteins of interest was

realized 2 days before. The day after the knockdown, HeLa cells transfected with Ctrl,

ORP5, or ORP8 siRNAs were plated in a Seahorse XFp 8-mini wells microplate.

20,000 HeLa cells were seeded in each well (except in the blank wells used for the

background correction) in 180 μl of culture medium, and incubated overnight at 37℃

in 5% CO2. One day after, the culture medium was replaced with 180 µl of XF DMEM

Medium Solution pH 7.4 and then the 8-mini wells microplate was moved in a 37°C

non-CO2 incubator before measurement. OCR was determined before drug additions

and after addition of Oligomycin (1.5 µM), Carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)

phenylhydrazone (FCCP, 0.5 µM), and Rotenone/Antimycin A (0.5 µM) (purchased

from Agilent). After each assay, all the raw OCR data were analyzed using WAVE

software.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel or GraphPad Prism 9.0. The data were presented as mean $\pm$ standard error of the mean (SEM). The n, indicated in the figures and figure legends, represent the total number of cells analyzed in three or more biological replicates, as stated in the figures legend. Statistical significance of two data sets were determined by unpaired student's *t*-test, with * $p<0.05$, *** $p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$ and **** $p<0.0001$.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

1026

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

1028 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

1029

DATA AVAILABILITY SECTION

1031 This study includes no data deposited in external repositories.

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Figure 1

Figure 1. Endogenous and co-overexpressed ORP5 and ORP8 co-localize at ER-mitochondria contact sites. (a) Confocal images of Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown HeLa cells were immunostained using anti-ORP5 or ORP8 antibodies (green), and treated with MitoTracker to label mitochondria (red) and DAPI to stain the nuclei (blue). Images are presented as individual layers. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Note the close association of endogenous ORP5 and ORP8 to mitochondria. Scale bar, 10 μm. (b) WB analysis showing ORP5, ORP8 and GAPDH levels in protein lysates from Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown HeLa cells. (c) Quantification of ORP5 and ORP8 fluorescent intensity in Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown cells. Mean of fluorescent intensities in arbitrary units (a.u. x10^5). Error bars denote $\pm$ standard error of the mean (SEM). Number of cells given above bars. Statistical analysis: P values were determined by unpaired student's *t*-test, *P<0.05, ***P<0.001. (d) Distribution of ORP5 and ORP8 IF staining (spots) in relation to their distance (in μm) to mitochondria indicating that part of the endogenous ORP5 and ORP8 in the cell is detected in close proximity to mitochondria (<0.5 μm). (e) Confocal images of a HeLa cell immunostained using anti-ORP5 (green) or ORP8 (red) antibodies and MitoTracker (blue). Images are presented as individual layers. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm. (f) Quantification of the co-localization (Pearson's factor) of ORP5-ORP8 in endogenous (ORP5-8 end) and co-overexpression (ORP5-8 over) conditions. Bars indicate mean values $\pm$ SEM. Number of cell analyzed: ORP5-8 end (n=15), ORP5-8 over (n=14). (g) Confocal micrograph of a region of HeLa cell (zoomed from Fig EV1a) transfected with EGFP-ORP5 (green), EGFP-ORP8 (green) or EGFP-ORP8 (green) + HA-ORP5 (anti-HA, red), and with Mito-BFP (blue). (h) Quantifications of the association to mitochondria (Pearson's factor) of the indicated EGFP-tagged constructs. Bars indicate mean values $\pm$ SEM of three independent experiments with 10 cells for sample analyzed in each experiment (n=30). Statistical analysis: unpaired Student's t-test comparing EGFP-ORP5 (ORP5) or EGFP-ORP8 (ORP8) to EGFP-Sec22b (SEC22b) and HA-ORP5 (+EGFP-ORP8) or EGFP-ORP8 (+HA-ORP5) to EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP8, respectively. *P<0.05, **P<0.01.

Figure 2

Figure 2. The main localization of the endogenous ORP5-8 complex is ER-mitochondria contact sites. (a) Representative confocal images of ORP5-ORP8 interaction in HeLa cells detected by Duolink PLA (green spots) in endogenous (ORP5-ORP8 Endo) and overexpressing (HA-ORP5 + 3xFL-ORP8) conditions, and their respective 3D representation by Imaris. Images are presented as maximum projection of all layers. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm. (b) Quantification of the number of ORP5-ORP8 PLA interactions in Control (siCtrl, n=39 cells), ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown (siORP5+8, n=38 cells), and in overexpression of ORP5 and ORP8 (Ovrexp ORP5+8, n=35 cells), showing that the downregulation or the upregulation of both ORP5 and ORP8, respectively, reduces and increases the number of interaction stablished between these two proteins. Statistical analysis: P values were determined by unpaired student's *t*-test, ***P<0,001. (c) Quantification of ORP5-ORP8 PLA interaction localized to ER-Mitochondria contact sites in control (Endo, n= 33) and HeLa cells overexpressing (HA-ORP5 + 3xFL-ORP8, n=27 cells) showing that about 50% of ORP5-ORP8 interactions occurs at MAM. (d) Representative confocal images of ORP5-ORP8 PLA interaction (green spots) detected in HeLa cells overexpressing PHPLCd-RFP, Mito-BFP (ORP5-ORP8 Endo), or in HeLa cells overexpressing PHPLCδ-RFP, Mito-BFP, ORP5 and ORP8 (HA-ORP5 + 3xFL-ORP8). Images are presented as individual layers. Scale bar, 10 μm. (e) Quantification of ORP5-ORP8 PLA signal localized to ER-plasma membrane contact sites indicate that about 5% of the total ORP5-ORP8 interactions occurs to these subdomains of the ER membranes, in both control (Endogenous, n=6 cells) and HeLa cells overexpressing ORP5 and ORP8 (Overexpressed, n=14 cells). (f) Box plot of ORP5-ORP8 endogenous PLA spots distance (in μm) to mitochondria and plasma membrane (box around median value, whiskers 10%-90%) evidencing that the majority of ORP5-ORP8 interactions were detected in a close proximity to mitochondria (<0.38 μm) and distant from the plasma membrane (≥0.38 μm).

Figure 3. ORP5 localizes at ER-mitochondria contact sites near cristae junctions (CJ).

(a) Electron micrographs of ultrathin cryosections of HeLa cells transfected with HA-ORP5 or Mitofilin-EGFP and immunogold stained with anti-HA or anti-GFP (10 or 15 nm gold), showing ORP5 localization at ER-mitochondria contacts in close proximity to CJ (arrow) and the localization of the MICOS complex (Mitofilin) at CJ (arrows). Scale bar 250 nm. (b) Quantification of the proximity of HA-ORP5 and EGFP-Sec61β gold particles to the CJ. Results are presented as the percentage of ORP5 or Sec61b gold particles at specific ranges of distance (in nm) from CJ. 150 gold particles were counted on randomly selected cell profiles in each sample. (c) Electron micrographs of ultrathin cryosections of HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5 or GFP-Sec61β and immunogold labeled with anti-GFP (15 nm gold) and anti-PDI (10nm gold). Note ORP5 localization at ER-mitochondria contacts near CJ (arrow) and Sec61β localization to ER membranes not in contact with the mitochondria membranes (arrowheads). Scale bar 250 nm.

Figure 3

a

Mass-Spectrometry Analysis

Protein	Localization	IP EGFP	IP EGFP-ORP5	IP EGFP-ORP5ΔPH
		Mascot Score		
ORP5	MAMs	0	9689	12192
ORP8	MAMs	31	930	690
Mitofilin	IMM	43	579	1150
SAM50	OMM	0	237	516
Metaxin2	OMM	0	32	175
RHOT2	OMM	0	131	119
TOM22	OMM	0	77	95
PSS1	MAMs	0	150	200
PTPIP51	OMM	0	76	73

Figure 4

Figure 4. ORP5 and ORP8 interact with the MIB/MICOS complex at ER-mitochondria contacts. (a) Identification of mitochondrial proteins associated to mitochondrial outer or inner membranes (OMM, IMM) that interact with EGFP-tagged ORP5 constructs by mass spectrometry. Note the presence of some proteins of the MIB complex: Mitofilin, SAM50 and Metaxin2 and of their interacting partner RHOT2. Interaction scores (Mascot scores) of Mitofilin, SAM50 and Metaxin2 with the EGFP-ORP5ΔPH construct are stronger than with EGFP-ORP5. (b) WB analysis showing GFP (EGFP-tagged constructs), Mitofilin, SAM50 and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells transfected with either EGFP (Control) or with EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH constructs. (c) EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP alone were transfected in HeLa cells then immuno-precipitated from lysates and analyzed by western blot using antibodies against GFP (for ORP5 or ORP8), Mitofilin or SAM50. (d) EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH, EGFP-ORP5ΔORD, EGFP-ORP5ΔTM, EGFP-ORP8, EGFP-ORP8ΔPH or EGFP alone were transfected in HeLa cells then immuno-precipitated from lysates and analyzed by western blot using antibodies against GFP (for ORP5 or ORP8) or against SAM50. (e) Confocal images of Ctrl (siCtrl) and SAM50 (siSAM50) knockdown HeLa cells showing endogenous interaction of ORP8-SAM50 by Duolink PLA (green) at MAMs. Mitochondria are labeled by MitoTracker (red) and nuclei by DAPI (blue). Images are presented as maximum projection of all layers. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm. (f) Quantification of ORP8-SAM50 PLA signals in Control and SAM50 knockdown HeLa cells, showing the reduction of about 50% of ORP8-SAM50 PLA in SAM50 knockdown cells as compared to control. Bars indicate mean values ±SEM. Number of cell analysed: siCtrl (n=30), siSAM50 (22) Statistical analysis: P values were determined by unpaired student's t-test, **P<0.01. (g) WB analysis showing SAM50 and GAPDH levels in protein lysates from siCtrl and siSAM50 cells.

Figure 5. SAM50 and Mitofilin knockdowns induce a decrease in ORP5-8 interaction at MAMs but do not alter the abundance of ER-mitochondria contact sites. (a) Confocal images of a region of Ctrl (siCtrl), SAM50 (siSAM50) and Mitofilin (siMitofilin) knockdown HeLa cells showing endogenous interaction of ORP5-8 by Duolink PLA (green) near mitochondria (MitoTracker, red). (b) Quantification of ORP5-8 PLA signals in Control, SAM50 and Mitofilin knockdown HeLa cells, showing the decrease of about 40% of ORP5-ORP8 PLA in SAM50 and Mitofilin knockdown cells as compared to control. Bars indicate mean values ±SEM. Number of cell analysed: siCtrl (n=33), siSAM50 (n=19), siMitofilin (n=24). Statistical analysis: unpaired sudent's *t*-test. ***P<0.001.(c) Representative electron micrographs of HeLa cells treated with Ctrl siRNAs or siRNAs against SAM50 or Mitofilin and transfected with HRP-KDEL. Red arrows indicate ER-mitochondria contact sites. Scale bar, 500 nm. (d) Quantifications of the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites in Ctrl, Mitofilin and SAM50 knockdown cells expressing HRP-KDEL. Data are shown as % of the ER in contact with mitochondria (mitochondria occupancy) ±SEM, n = 30 for siCtrl, n = 20 cell profiles for siMitofilin and siSAM50 and 1000 mitochondria; n.s; not significant.

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 6. ORP5/8 and the MIB/MICOS complex regulate levels of PS-derived mitochondrial PE (a) Crude mitochondria, mitochondria, and MAM fractions were purified from Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 siRNA-treated HeLa cells. Equal amounts of protein from each fraction were loaded on a 4–20% gradient SDS–PAGE gel and immunoblotted using anti-ORP5, anti-ORP8, anti-IP3R-3 (MAM protein), and anti-cytochrome c (mitochondrial protein). Mito, mitochondria; MAM, mitochondria-associated ER membrane. (b) Mass spectrometry (MS)-based quantification of the PE content (nmol/mg protein) of mitochondria isolated from Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown cells and of Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown intact cells. Data are shown as mean of three independent replicates $\pm$SEM. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's t-test, *P<0.05, **P<0.01. (c) HeLa cells transfected with siCtrl, siORP5, siORP8 or siORP5+ORP8 RNAi oligos were incubated with L-[^{3}H(G)]serine (30.9 Ci/mmol) for 18 hours. After extraction and separation of lipids by TLC, PS and PE spots were scraped and analyzed for [^{3}H] radioactivity, as described under "Methods". Each condition was analyzed in triplicate in each of three independent biological replicates. Data are presented as mean of PE:PS ratio $\pm$SEM. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's t-test, *P<0.05, **P<0.01 compared to Ctrl. (d) Cells transfected with siCtrl and siORP5 oligos were treated with b-Chloro-L-alanine (b-Chl-L-ala, inhibitor of Ser-palmitoyltransferase) or untreated, then pulsed with 15 µCi/ml of [^{3}H(G)]serine for 1 hour and chased for 12 hours in serum-free DMEM, before analysis. n.s. not significant, **P<0.01 compared to Ctrl. (e) Electron micrographs of HRP-KDEL-expressing HeLa cells treated with Ctrl siRNAs (siCtrl) or siRNAs against ORP5 and ORP8 (siORP5+siORP8). Red arrows indicate ER-mitochondria contact sites. Scale bar, 500 nm. (f) Quantifications of the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites in siCtrl, siORP5, siORP8 and siORP5+8 cells expressing HRP-KDEL. Data are shown as % of the ER in contact with mitochondria (mitochondria occupancy) $\pm$SEM, n = 20 cell profiles and $\pm$900 mitochondria; n.s; not significant. (g) Western analysis showing ORP5, SAM50, Mitofilin and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with siRNA against Ctrl, ORP5, Mitofilin or SAM50. Arrow indicates the specific band for Mitofilin.

(h) Radiometric measurement of PS-to-PE conversion in the indicated siRNAs. Data are presented as mean of PE:PS ratio $\pm$ SEM. Each condition was performed in triplicate in each of the independent biological replicates (n = 5 for siCtrl and siORP5; n = 4 for siSAM50; n = 3 for the other siRNAs conditions). Statistical analysis: unpaired student's t-test , *P<0.05, **P<0.01 compared to Ctrl.

Figure 7. PS transport at ER-mitochondria contact site subdomains associated to MIB/MICOS complex. ORP5/8 mediate the transfer of PS from ER to mitochondria at ER-mitochondria membrane contact sites. This transfer occurs at ER subdomains facing the cristae junctions (CJ) where ORP5/8 interacts with SAM50 and Mitofilin, key proteins of the MIB complex. This interaction facilitates the transfer of PS from ER to the mitochondrial membranes at the level of CJ and PS conversion into PE, a phospholipid that plays a critical role in cristae organization and mitochondrial function.

Figure 7

Figure S1

Figure S1. Endogenous and co-overexpressed ORP5 and ORP8 co-localize at ER-mitochondria contact sites. (a) Confocal images of a region of HeLa cell transfected with EGFP-ORP5 (green) or EGFP-ORP8 (green) and immunostained using anti-ORP5 (red) or anti-ORP8 (red) antibodies. Scale bar, 5 μm. (b) Quantifications of the colocalization (Pearson's factor) of EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP8 with anti-ORP5 or anti-ORP8. Bars indicate mean values ±SEM. Cells analyzed for sample: n=5. (c) Confocal micrographs of regions of HeLa cell transfected with RFP-Sec22b (red) together with Mito-BFP (blue) and immunostained for anti-ORP5 (green) or anti-ORP8 (green) antibodies. Scale bar, 5 μm. (d) Confocal micrograph of a HeLa cell transfected with EGFP-ORP5 (green), EGFP-ORP8 (green) or EGFP-ORP8 (green) + HA-ORP5 (anti-HA, red), together with Mito-BFP (blue). The boxed areas are magnified in Fig 1g. Scale bar, 10 μm.

Figure S2

Figure S2. Endogenous ORP5-ORP8 interaction at ER-mitochondria contact sites. (a) Confocal images showing endogenous interaction of ORP5-8 by Duolink PLA (green) in Ctrl (siCtrl), and ORP5+ORP8 (siORP5+8) knockdown HeLa cells labeled with MitoTracker (red) to stain mitochondria. Images are presented as maximum projection of all layers. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm. (b) Workflow for the identification of PLA signals in close proximity to the mitochondria or plasma membrane. First the confocal stacks are segmented to identify the PLA foci (spots), the mitochondria network (surfaces), and the plasma membrane (cells). Then 3D distance maps are computed towards the outside of the surfaces (mitochondria) or inside the cells allowing the measurement of the distance of each spot from the closest mitochondria or membrane. Finally PLA spots are classified into two population (red and green) based on a proximity threshold of 380nm established on the precision of the detection system. (c) Confocal micrographs of HeLa cell transfected with GFP-Sec22b (green) and Mito-BFP (blue) and showing endogenous interaction of ORP5-8 by Duolink PLA (red). Images are presented as superposition of two layers. Scale bar, 5 μm.

Figure S3. Localization of ORP5 near SAM50-labeled mitochondria and effect of SAM50 KD on ORP5 and Mitofilin transcription. (a) Confocal micrograph of a HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH (green) and Mito-BFP (blue) and stained with anti-SAM50 (red) antibody. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm. (b) ORP5 and ORP8 full-length and mutant constructs used in Fig 4a-d and in in Fig. EV3a. (c) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of ORP5, SAM50 and Mitofilin in SAM50 knockdown cells versus control HeLa cells. y axis: $2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ value represents differences between the mean Ct (Cycle threshold) values of tested genes and those of reference gene (SDHA). SAM50 knockdown does not alter Mitofilin RNA levels and it induces an increase in ORP5 transcription. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's *t*-test , **P<0.01, ****P<0.0001.

Figure S3

Figure S4. Cristae Junctions are altered upon SAM50, Mitofilin and ORP5+8 knockdowns. (a) Representative EM micrographs showing the morphology of mitochondria in HeLa cells treated with siRNA against ORP5, ORP8, Mitofilin and SAM50. Scale bar, 200 nm. Red arrows indicate ER elements in contact with mitochondria; arrowheads indicate CJ; m, mitochondria. (b) Quantifications of the number of CJ per mitochondria profile in the indicated siRNA conditions. % of CJ ±SEM, n = 170-260 mitochondria. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's *t*-test , **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

Figure S4

Figure S5

Figure S5. ORP5 and ORP8 ORD domains mediate PS transfer between liposomes *in vitro* and ORP5/8 knockdown alter mitochondria morphology but not PSD1, PSS1 protein levels *in situ*. (a) Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE of the recombinant ORD domain of ORP5/8 proteins purified from BL21DE3 RILP cells. (b) Schematic cartoon of the *in vitro* assay used to study ORP5/8 ORD-mediated lipid transport between liposomes. (c) Donor liposomes containing fluorescent lipids (97 mol% POPC, 1 mol% TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE and 2 mol% of biotinylated-PE) and pre-bound to streptavidin beads were mixed at a 1:1 molar ratio with acceptor liposomes (100 mol% POPC) in the presence or absence of ORP5 or ORP8 ORD domains (250 µM of donor and acceptor liposomes and 0,3 µM of proteins in the reaction solution). The increase in fluorescence in the acceptor liposomes, which remain unbound in the solution, was measured after 1 hour of incubation at 37° C. Data are presented as % of transferred lipid $\pm$SEM and are the mean of six independent experiments. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's *t*-test , ***P<0.001. (d) Results of a lipid transfer experiment performed as in Fig. EV5c and presented as the fluorescence intensity of acceptor liposomes before (left panel) or after (right panel) their floatation on a Nycodenz gradient to confirm that fluorescence comes from the liposomes membrane. (e) WB analysis showing ORP5, ORP8, PSD1, PSS1 and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either Ctrl siRNAs or with siRNAs against ORP5 or/and ORP8. (f) Quantifications of the number of mitochondria with aberrant cristae morphology in the indicated siRNA conditions. Data are shown as % of mitochondria $\pm$SEM, n = 20 cell profiles and $\pm$700 mitochondria. Statistical analysis: unpaired student's *t*-test, **P<0.01 compared to siCtrl. (g) Schematic representation of non-vesicular PS transfer mediated by ORP5/8 at ER-mitochondria contact sites. PS is transported to mitochondrial membranes where it is rapidly converted into mitochondrial PE.

Figure S6. ORP5 and ORP8 knockdowns affect mitochondria respiratory function. (a-b) Mitochondrial oxygen consumption rate (OCR) measured in Ctrl and ORP5 (a) or ORP8 (b), siRNA-treated HeLa cells. OCR trace was obtained by sequential measurement of basal OCR (OCR_{BAS}), OCR after the addition of Oligomycin, OCR after the addition of FCCP (OCR_{FCCP}) and OCR after the addition of Rotenone/Antimycin A. Note the reduced OCR in siORP5 and siORP8 cells compared to Ctrl siRNA cells. Error bars denote ±SEM. Data shown in the bar charts are the mean of 4 independent repeats (n=4). Statistical analysis: unpaired student's *t*-test, *P<0.05, **P<0.01 compared to Ctrl.

Figure S6